St. Louis Audubon Society

Tale Feathers

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 2 APRIL 1997

Refuge Manager to Speak at Annual Dinner

by Tom Day

J. C. Bryant, refuge manager of the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, will be the guest speaker at St. Louis Audubon's annual dinner. This event on Friday, April 18, will be held at the Viking Conference Center (Holiday Inn Southwest) at 10709 Watson Road in Sunset Hills.

Mr. Bryant will discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to conserve fish and wildlife resources on the lower Missouri River with emphasis on the Big Muddy Refuge. The Big Muddy is a recently established refuge made up primarily of scattered pieces of wetlands along the Missouri River between St. Louis and Kansas City.

The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. Following dinner will be a brief meeting including the election of new board members and a vote on new chapter by-laws.

Please use the reservation form found on page 5 to make your dinner choices and reserve your place now--**reservation forms must be received by Friday, April 11!** Entree choices include chicken chardonnay, pork tenderloin, or pasta primavera. The cost for the banquet is $22 per person. Please send your annual dinner reservation form, with a check payable to the St. Louis Audubon Society, to:

Mary Lou Miller
3927 Lucas & Hunt Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

If you have questions, please call Tom Day at 822-9695 (days) or 962-4064 (evenings).

Spring Birding in St. Louis

by Jim Malone

It's definitely beginning to green up outside, and it won't be long until spring migration is in full swing. This year we have scheduled birding trips to a number of prime St. Louis locations to view the spectacle.

April birding begins with a trip to Busch Conservation Area and the Weldon Springs Lost Valley area on the 5th. On last year's trip to Lost Valley and Busch, we saw Louisiana waterthrushes, black and white warblers, pine warblers, swallows, and purple finches. On April 12 our second annual woodcock/owl prowl will be held at Busch Conservation Area at 6 pm. We expect to see woodcocks in display flight and maybe even a barred owl. On April 20 we will be going to Spanish Lake County Park for our first outing there. The park offers a number of different habitats in 1 convenient north St. Louis location. The last April trip is a special 2-day venture to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Missouri. See details of this event in the next article.

The beginning of May is the peak of spring migration in St. Louis. In conjunction with International Migratory Bird Week (May 4-10), we have scheduled 2 walks in Forest Park's Kennedy Woods. Last year these walks were our most popular events, with participants seeing as many as 17 different warblers and vireos, thrushes, and other forest birds. The final spring bird walk is at the Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit on May 24. The variety of birdlife at this location is always impressive. We will be walking through wildflower gardens, Meramec River lowlands, marshy areas, prairie grasslands, and transition woodlands. This event is an all-day walk, so bring a lunch and comfortable shoes. (There is also a $3 admission fee to the area.)

We expect to see some great birds this spring, so why not come out and join us!

Mingo Wildlife Area Trip Set for April 26 & 27

by Paul Bauer

For me the foremost spring adventure in Missouri is a sojourn to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in the bootheel. In the early morning fog, this mysterious primeval swamp and huge bottomland forest look like the dawn of time.

Traveling south 200 miles in late April is like moving ahead 1 week in time on the spring calendar. The abundance of birds at Mingo in late April will be similar to the numbers in St. Louis in early May, the very peak of our spring migration. So stretch your enjoyment of the spring wildflowers and the returning neotropical migrating birds, and join us to explore the Mingo NWR during the last weekend of April!

Saturday and **Sunday morning** field trips will include:

A) Mingo Headquarters trail, mile-long boardwalk and tower

B) Monopoly Lake overlook, Mingo River Wilderness Area, and extensive shorebird marshes

Saturday afternoon driving tours will include:

A) Rockhouse Cypress Marsh, Red Mill Pond, and Pool 6 and 8 marshes and shorebird areas

B) Duck Creek Conservation Area--main pool, bottomland forests, marshes, and shorebird areas

The registration fee of $5 per person for this trip should be mailed to:

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2085M
Florissant, MO 63032

Make you check payable to St. Louis Audubon. Provide your name, address, and phone number, and indicate if you would be willing to take riders in your vehicle and how many.

We will mail to all registrants a package of information with directions to Mingo, our meeting place and time, and suggested places for lodging, camping, and meals. Also a local area map will be included.

During this weekend, we should expect to see more than 100 species of birds and to have many meaningful wildlife experiences. This trip will be escorted by Jim and Charlene Malone and Paul Bauer. If you have any questions, please call Paul at 921-3972.

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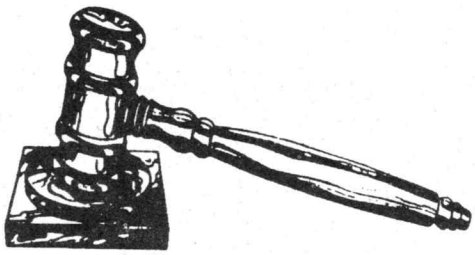


From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Strategic Plan in Final Stretch

Past president David Tylka has been guiding St. Louis Audubon in the preparation of our second 5-year strategic plan. The first plan, prepared in 1989 also with David's enthusiastic leadership, went a long way to put our chapter on the road to becoming a more effective force in the community. As with any plan, we accomplished some goals and let others slide. But the plan did force the Society to focus on its twin goals of education and conservation.

Now in the late 1990's, we are entering an era with new priorities--and new technologies. After a period of internal turmoil and declining membership, the National Audubon Society has emerged from its own strategic planning process with a new focus on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. And St. Louis Audubon can take some pride in the fact that this new focus on birds is due in large part to the suggestions of David Tylka--based on a survey of a random selection of our members. With this new focus, National Audubon has announced a series of new national campaigns. St. Louis Audubon expects to be closely involved in at least 2 of these campaigns--those involving the ecological restoration of the Missouri and Upper Mississippi Rivers.

We do not want to anticipate the results of the new strategic plan, which are still being formulated. As part of this process, with Jerry Miller's help, we have reviewed our by-laws and revised them where necessary to enable our Society to function more effectively. One of Jerry's goals was to bring the entire membership into closer touch with Society activities. In the future, all members will have a vote on the election of officers and directors. St. Louis Audubon members will be asked to approve the new by-laws at the annual dinner meeting on April 18.

Now we have to pull things together and come up with a plan to get us into the twenty-first century. The strategic planning committee has been meeting in the Audubon office in Kirkwood on the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone interested is asked to attend. Please call first (Jim Holsen at 822-0410) for the date of the next meeting, which may vary from the normal schedule.

St. Louis Audubon Receives Gift of Microsoft Software

St. Louis Audubon has received a very generous gift of software, worth approximately $1,000, from the Microsoft Corporation. The programs include Microsoft Office 97, Microsoft Bookshelf 97, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Frontpage 97, and Microsoft Publisher 97. Jerry Klamon and Laura Neuman, co-executive directors for the Missouri Environmental Fund, arranged for this gift and deserve many thanks for making these programs available.

But this brings up a problem. We cannot run these programs, which require Windows 95, on our present computer. Jim Malone, a board member, has been working in the evenings to arrange a home page on the internet. However, our computer, a 16 MHz 386SX, is much too slow to enable him to give us an attractive layout. We are also hoping to use the internet for our educational activities and for contact with government agencies and conservation organizations. We will need a faster computer with greater memory if we are to carry out these tasks.

Anyone with suggestions on how we can obtain a personal computer that will run these programs is asked to phone Jim Holsen (H# 822-0410) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

East-West Gateway Coordinating Council Representative Needed

St. Louis Audubon needs someone who can represent us at meetings of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. The Council represents all communities in the metropolitan area and is responsible for coordinating and approving all new transportation plans, including new highways and MetroLink routes. These plans will have an environmental impact for many years to come.

The Council board meets during the day on the last Wednesday of each month. An Audubon representative at the meetings can keep us informed of new issues as they arise. When appropriate, he or she may also wish to take an active role in the Council's planning activities. Anyone who has the time and interest to take on this activity should call Jim Holsen (H# 822-0410).

Get to Know . . .

Arthur Montgomery

(This is the sixteenth in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

Being an investment consultant and a Republican, I am often asked how I got started with the St. Louis Audubon Society. I was born a poor child in northwestern Missouri. I grew up on a farm just north of St. Joseph, and it was there that I developed an understanding of the magnitude and eloquence of nature. The freedom to walk through the woods, frolic in a creek, or pick wild blackberries are aspects of country life that I still cherish respectfully.

My interest in preserving nature came when I saw large tracts of land being stripped in the name of "progress." The effects that the so-called industrialization had on the earth were dramatic. Between the loss of habitat and soil erosion, the aftermath of "progress" was not just a local issue, but an area-wide issue downstream as well.

In 1990, I moved to St. Louis and secured a job as a financial consultant for a national investment firm. Shortly thereafter, a company came out with an environmentally friendly investment fund. The most efficient way to market such a fund is through environmental organizations. So, I called the president of Audubon, Dave Tylka. He made arrangements for me to address the group at one of the meetings. Dave then recruited me for Operation Clean Stream. I soon realized this was merely the beginning of his diabolical plan.

After Operation Clean Stream, Dave said that there was the possibility of my joining the board of directors as secretary. I felt this was a good opportunity for me. Being a member of the board would put me in an influential position to persuade corporate philosophies to become more environmentally conscious. Well, I am still working on that!

When Audubon started its investment fund, I volunteered to help select companies whose track records on environmental issues were above average. We also ruled out all industries which had a scanty or questionable environmental history.

This is my sixth year with St. Louis Audubon, and I'm proud to say that I have enjoyed meeting everyone. I have learned a great deal from my fellow board members and am certain I'll learn much more in the ensuing years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. For confirmation & more information, call trip leaders Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Check out highlights of the following trips in "Spring Birding in St. Louis" on page 1!

Busch Conservation Area/Lost Valley -- *Saturday, April 5,* at 8 am. Meet at Busch in St. Charles Co. Take Hwy 94 south of US 40, 1 mile to right on Hwy D. Go 1.5 miles to entrance on right. Pass through HQ area & gate to Hampton Lake parking lot.

Woodcock/Owl Prowl at Busch Conservation Area -- *Saturday, April 12, at 6:30 pm.* See directions in earlier entry. Bring flashlight, boots, & dress for weather. Leader: Jim Malone, H# 536-1119.

Spanish Lake Park -- *Sunday, April 20,* at 8 am. Take I-270 to Bellefontaine Rd. Go north on Bellefontaine to Spanish Pond Rd. Turn right on Spanish Pond & follow road to 3rd park entrance. Turn right into parking lot.

Weekend Trip to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in SE Missouri -- *Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27.* See specific details on this special event in "Mingo Wildlife Area Trip" on page 1.

Forest Park Kennedy Woods -- *Sunday, May 4,* at 8 am. In St. Louis City. Park behind the Art Museum. Meet at the edge of the woods.

Forest Park Kennedy Woods -- *Sunday, May 11,* at 8 am. See directions in above entry.

Shaw Arboretum -- *Saturday, May 24,* at 8 am. Take I-44 west from I-270 to Gray Summit exit. Arboretum on south side of highway on outer road. All-day walk--bring lunch, comfortable shoes, & $3 for admission fee.

Audubon-Related Activities

St. Louis Audubon Annual Dinner Meeting -- *Friday, April 18,* at Viking Conference Center in Sunset Hills. Cash bar at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:30 pm. (See related article with speaker information on page 1 & reservation form on page 5.) **Reservations due by Friday, April 11.**

Environmental Lobby Day in Jefferson City-- *Wednesday, April 23.* (See related article on page 4.) For reservations or more info., call Chris Hoving at the Coalition, 727-0600.

Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting -- *Friday through Sunday, April 25-27,* in Columbia, MO. (See related article with registration info. on page 5.)

Special Events

Witness Exhibit -- *Saturday, April 5,* sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden. Event's focus on saving endangered species. For more info., call Cindy Hilke at 521-1216. St. Louis Audubon will have booth; call Mary Smith, H# 949-7871, to volunteer.

Wings of Spring -- *Sunday, April 13,* at Riverlands Environmental Area, sponsored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more info., call Julie Ziino, 355-6585, at Corps office. St. Louis Audubon will have booth; call Mary Smith, H# 949-7871, to volunteer.

Earth Day Festival -- *Saturday & Sunday, May 17 & 18.* To be held in Tower Grove Park, rain or shine. Theme: "Volunteering for a Healthy Planet." On 1st day, Missouri Environmental Fund web site will be introduced and, in line with theme, will carry volunteer opportunities in the 20 member organizations of the Fund. St. Louis Audubon will be present--plan to attend!

Statewide Butterfly Count -- *Saturdays, May 17, June 21, & September 6.* 3 different count dates scheduled for each of 5 different locations. (See related article on page 4.)

Join Our 1997 BIRDATHON

Every Member Can Take Part in the Fun of Fund Raising!

What is a BIRDATHON??

For Birders:

*Find as many birds as possible in 24 hours. Start any time of the day and bird as long as you desire, but stop your count 24 hours later. Choose any date between **April 15 and May 31**.

*Go birding in any area, county, or state of your choosing. Select a state park, Busch Conservation Area, or Riverlands, or all 3. Even if you go on vacation away from the St. Louis area, you can do a BIRDATHON for us!

*For more fun invite a few friends and make your BIRDATHON an all-day adventure. Select a name for your team, like the Nighthawks, the Dickcissels, or the Grosbeaks. Mail in a xerox copy of your bird list, including the names and phone numbers of all those on your team. Mail your team list to:

AUDUBON BIRDATHON
P.O. Box 2085
Florissant, MO 63032

For All Audubon Members:

*BIRDATHON provides an easy opportunity to support the conservation and educational programs sponsored by your St. Louis Audubon Society. The need is great, and the funds are always too small.

*Consider making a donation to sponsor 1 of our birding teams. Each team will probably see more than 50 species of birds. A few teams may find more than 100 species of birds in 1 day. Consider donating a **dime** to a **quarter** for each bird species seen by 1 team. Of course, larger donations are dearly welcomed.

*Call in your **donation pledge** to 921-3972, and provide your name and phone number. Later we will inform you of the number of bird species your team found. A copy of the team list will be provided.

*Mail all donations to:

AUDUBON BIRDATHON
P.O. Box 2085
Florissant, Mo 63032

Make all checks payable to St. Louis Audubon.

Our sincere thanks for your dedicated support!

The Conservation Corner

Environmental Lobby Day Scheduled for April 23

by Jim Holsen

Environmental Lobby Day was a great success last year. Individuals from around Missouri met in the rotunda of the State Capitol to voice their concerns, to hear from interested representatives and senators, and, later, to meet with their own legislators. It was sometimes a noisy event, but one which attracted the attention of our legislators to the environmental issues of the day. It was fun, but serious, too.

Last year the regulation of "confined animal operations," or large hog farms, was one of the major issues. In the afternoon a number of us sat in on committee hearings for one of the bills before the House. I am sure that the expression of interest manifested by a full committee room had much to do with the nature of the bill that was eventually passed.

Items on the environmental agenda this year include campaign finance reform, repeal of the "no stricter than" clause that prohibits Missouri from enacting clean air regulations that are stricter than Federal regulations, environmental justice, and the question of urban sprawl.

This year Environmental Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23. A bus or buses will leave St. Louis that morning and return in the evening for a cost of $20 per person. Bring your own lunch. The schedule is to be determined. Lobby Day is being coordinated by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment; St. Louis Audubon is a co-sponsor. Call Chris Hoving at the Coalition at 727-0600 for reservations or for more information.

Help Needed for Annual Statewide Butterfly Count

by Susanne Greenlee

The Annual Statewide Butterfly Count needs your help. We are looking for people to help census butterflies found at natural areas around the state. The information gathered will assist in assessing butterfly distributions and long-term population trends.

Butterflies, due to their narrow feeding habits, are excellent indicator species to monitor the health of natural areas. In 1996 over 100 volunteers across the state attended the counts, and we hope you will join us in 1997.

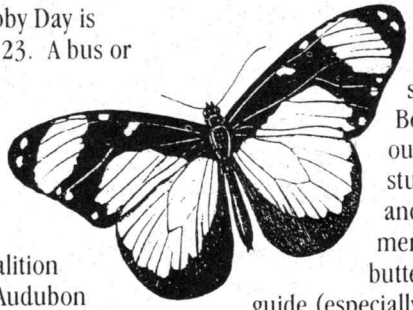
There will be a coordinator at each site. They're experts at identifying butterflies and will lead the group over the census route. Don't worry if you are new at identifying butterflies. We need catchers, recorders, identifiers using books and other tasks--there is something for everyone! Please call the coordinator of the site you are interested in to sign up. There will be 5 organized counts near St. Louis.

Dates for the 3 counts below are:

May 17, June 21 & September 6
9:30 am to 2 pm

Busch Conservation Area in St. Charles County—Bill Brandhorst, *coordinator*, 965-7269
Victoria Glade in Jefferson County—George Winkler, *coordinator*, 993-1652
Valley View Glades in Jefferson County—Marshall Magner, *coordinator*, 961-4588

The following sites may have different count dates; please call for more information.
Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County--Bruce Shuette, coordinator, 314/528-7247
Powder Valley Nature Center in St. Louis County--Doug Jackson, 821-8427



Please bring water and a lunch if you plan on spending the whole day. Be prepared for a day outside. Long pants, a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent, and sunscreen are recommended. Please bring a butterfly net and/or butterfly guide (especially *Butterflies and Moths of Missouri* by R. Heitzman) if you have them. We will have some extra on hand.

Project Rehabitat

by Dale Ponce

Everyone knows that today's greatest threat to wildlife is the loss of habitat. Forests are being clear cut, highways, parking lots, houses and factories are covering our natural areas, and, of course, the threat of pollution is everywhere.

Obviously, the land that is covered with concrete, blacktop, and buildings is a total loss of habitat, but some other areas are still very good, or at least adequate. However, there is much undeveloped land that is in fact very poor or, at best, minimal habitat.

These areas may look just fine to the casual observer, but the trained eye sees a lack of cover where small birds and animals can hide. He sees a lack of nesting sites, a shortage of the kinds of food-producing plants that support a diversity of wildlife, the absence of water, or many other factors that render the area as unsuitable habitat.

I know that you share the concern of many others over this problem, and the fact that you are a member of the Audubon Society is evidence that you care. The St. Louis Audubon board of directors shares your concern and caring, and so we have decided to embark on a new program, but we need your help. Our project involves finding mediocre or poor habitat areas and making them better by doing whatever is necessary to increase the area's ability to sustain larger populations and more diverse species of wildlife.

Before we can improve anything, however, we must first have something to improve. If you are the owner of rural property and want to make things better for the wildlife that does or could live there, then please fill out the response form below and mail it to the address indicated.

You will be provided with all the details of the program, and any questions you might have will be answered. I can assure you, however, that you will not be asked for money to fund this project nor will the Audubon Society have any claim, legal or otherwise, on your property. You and you alone will have the final decision concerning anything we propose.

Please help us and give this plan a chance to work.

St. Louis Audubon Society Project Rehabitat

Yes, I am interested in learning more about this project. Please send the information to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please mail the request to:

Dale Ponce
1555 Maple Lane
Ellisville, MO 63011

ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION FORM
ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Reservations requests must be received by Friday, April 11.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
CASH BAR: 6:30 pm
DINNER: 7:30 pm

SPEAKER:
J. C. BRYANT
Manager, Big Muddy Refuge

VIKING CONFERENCE CENTER
10709 WATSON ROAD
SUNSET HILLS, MO

Please reserve _____ places at **$22** each for the Annual Dinner.
My check payable to **St. Louis Audubon Society** is enclosed.

Please reserve ____ chicken chardonnay dinner(s), ____ pork tenderloin dinner(s), and/or ____ pasta primavera dinner(s).

Please complete information below, including phone number. You will receive a call confirming your reservation.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone # _____

Mail this form & check to:

Mary Lou Miller
3927 Lucas & Hunt Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Missouri Field Office Update

by Mary Dueren

The Missouri Audubon Council's (MAC) state office steering committee has been busy. All chapters from around the state have sent comments, suggestions, concerns, and ideas to Anita Randolf, now past president of MAC.

The committee has added a new member, Karen Uhlenhoff, the new MAC president and member of the Burroughs (Kansas City) Audubon chapter. After a conference call at the end of October, the committee felt that a meeting was necessary to take all the information gathered to meld into a preliminary proposal for National Audubon (NAS). Everyone met at the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City on November 17. We started at noon and left at 6 pm with the groundwork laid for starting to write a proposal.

Our committee struggled with each goal, making sure our members' input was incorporated. We even disagreed on how our mission statement should read. Some felt we should keep the NAS mission statement; others felt it should reflect Missouri.

Two more conference calls held on December 6 and January 10 yielded more definitive plans for a field office. A first draft was presented to MAC on January 11 in Jefferson City. With some more additions and deletions, the committee's proposal is close to being completed. A concern that the fine details are not included has been expressed about this draft. A tentative conference call in March was to be used to assess that concern.

This project is not an easy task. I have been impressed with my fellow committee members' strong commitment to making this field office a resource for all members of Audubon and citizens of our state. We still have a long way to go yet.

Audubon Society of Missouri Holds Spring Meeting

by Paul Bauer

The Columbia Audubon Society (CAS) invites you to the spring meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) on April 25-27 at the Ramada Inn, 1100 Vandiver Drive, Columbia. All ASM and National Audubon Society members in Missouri and Illinois are invited to attend this meeting.

The agenda, in addition to an abundance of field trips, contains presentations on 2 national programs that need our attention as conservationists of birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Peter Stangel, director of the Neotropical Migrant Bird Program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, will join us for a weekend of birding as well as present the locally and internationally important Partners in Flight Program on Saturday night. On Friday night Fred Baumgarten of the National Audubon Society will conduct a workshop on the Important Bird Areas Program. The 2 speakers will give us a sound basis to become actively involved in these closely integrated programs.

Boone County and Columbia contain a great number of exciting birding areas for our field trips. Three state parks, the Cedar Creek district of Mark Twain National Forest, University of Missouri Bradford and South experimental farms, Columbia's waste water treatment lagoons and constructed wetlands, and several Missouri Department of Conservation areas, including Eagle Bluffs, are all open to the public.

Registration for adults is $5, and adult Saturday night banquet tickets are $13.95 each. To obtain a registration form and a detailed schedule of events, plus options on lodging and camping with a local map, please send a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Paul Bauer
P.O. Box 2085
Florissant, MO 63032

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The Education Corner

Three Area Teachers to Attend Audubon Camps

by Julie Wells

The St. Louis Audubon Society awards committee has selected 3 camp scholarship recipients for 1997. The recipients, who will attend the Audubon ecology camps this summer, are Jill Schultz, Don Knobbe, and Sandra McMillan.

Jill is a third grade teacher at Avery School in the Webster Groves School District. She will be attending the camp in Maine. Don is a sixth grade teacher at Steger School in the Webster Groves School District and will be attending the camp in Wyoming. Sandra, a fourth grade teacher at Edgar Road School in the Webster Groves School District, will be attending the Connecticut camp.

These educators are all eager to use the knowledge they obtain at the camps to enrich the science and ecology programs for their students.

February Seed Sale Nets Profit

by Sue Smith

St. Louis Audubon raised approximately $180 at its bird seed sale held on February 22. We thank all the members who purchased seed.

A special thank you to Tom Day, who allowed us to distribute the seed from his place of business, the Wild Bird Center at 9815 Watson Road in Crestwood.

Another thanks to Sue Jones, who handled the processing of the orders.

St. Louis Audubon appreciates the time and effort of those who helped at the Saturday sale: Bill Groth, Jim Holsen, Jim Malone, and Sue Smith. The fund-raising money will be used for educational activities.

Auduboners Assist with Eagle Days

by Mary Smith

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Eagle Days in Clarksville were held the weekend of January 25 and 26. The eagle counts were good this year; the visitor's center reported more than 250 daily eagle sightings during the peak times. On Saturday, 3,500 people attended the event. Poor weather conditions made for a lower turnout on Sunday.

This year we had a special treat with the World Bird Sanctuary doing the live eagle presentation. Staff members brought with them an immature bald eagle, a mature bald eagle, and a golden eagle. They did a great job educating the visitors about the eagle's biology and habits.

Audubon's booth volunteers were busy answering questions, handing out literature, and selling birding items. A heartfelt thanks to those who helped staff the booth: Bill Brandhorst, Jerry Castillon, and Arthur Montgomery--with special thanks to Dale Ponce, who stayed all weekend! Snow prevented other volunteers from joining us on Sunday, so we were very glad Dale had stayed overnight. Jerry Miller and I assisted the Missouri Department of Conservation in its volunteer positions.

Birding Classes Offered through St. Louis Community College — Instructors from St. Louis Audubon Society

Meramec Community College -- *April 3 & 5.* Instructor: Tom Day. Call Meramec's Continuing Education office for details & registration, 984-7777.

Florissant Valley Community College -- *April 9.* Instructors: Mary Dueren & Mary Smith. Call Florissant Valley's Continuing Education office for details & registration, 595-4444.

Mehlville High School -- *April 24 & 26.* Instructor: Tom Day. Call Meramec's Continuing Education office, 984-7777.

CLASSES INCLUDE BASIC BIRDWATCHING, BACKYARD FEEDING, BINOCULARS, & IDENTIFICATION TIPS.
Tom's 2nd sessions are bird walks.

Volunteer Naturalists Needed at Shaw Arboretum

The Arboretum is recruiting volunteer naturalists to act as seasonal, weekday tour guides for the Whitmire Wildflower Garden and to conduct Wilderness Wagon and Bus tours. We need congenial individuals willing to familiarize themselves with pertinent information about the Arboretum and its plant life and natural history. The ability to identify specific plants and animals is helpful, but not necessary. The ability to speak informatively and enthusiastically to groups of varying sizes is more important.

Training sessions are part of the volunteers' orientation to the Arboretum. For more information about this exciting volunteer opportunity, please call the Arboretum at 451-3512 weekdays, between 8 am and 4:30 pm.

St. Louis Audubon East African Safaris

by Paul Bauer

ONLY A FEW OPENINGS REMAIN FOR THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON-SPONSORED BIRDING AND WILDLIFE KENYA SAFARIS IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER.

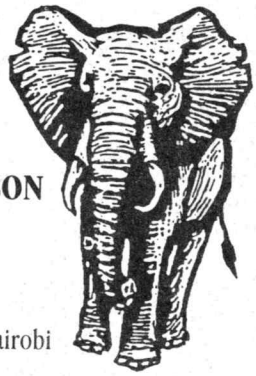
The itinerary of parks visited is very similar to the co-sponsored October trip to Kenya highlighted on page 7; however, we will have an exceptional birding guide with over 30 years of experience in Kenya and Uganda. We have used his valued services for the last 3 years. Typically on these 2-week trips, we will see over 40 species of mammals and more than 300 species of birds.

Most of the mammals are seen and photographed at "point-blank" range--and often in huge numbers. In June the birds are most active, and easy to find, because they are building nests or feeding young. In September the huge migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra swell from nearly 100,000 to about 1.5 million. In turn, these herds are followed by many lions, cheetahs, and numerous birds of prey.

This is our fourth year to offer adventure trips to East Africa. No natural spectacle on earth compares with a Kenya safari because of the incredible wildlife--the observation opportunities of thousands of birds and mammals still living in their natural habitat. Also the price we have obtained for our groups is an exceptional value.

To request a detailed, color itinerary, call Paul Bauer at 314/921-3972. Also plan to attend either of the 2 preview meetings at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Ridgeway Center.

(See related article on co-sponsored October safari trip on page 7.)



KENYA: A SAFARI ADVENTURE

AN EXCEPTIONAL WILDLIFE SAFARI CO-SPONSORED BY ST. LOUIS AUDUBON AND THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
OCTOBER 19-31, 1997

- Travel to East Africa and explore Kenya, its rich culture and magnificent wildlife. Start your African safari adventure in Nairobi with options to visit the home of Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, Giraffe Manor, or Nairobi National Park.
- Then travel to the Ark, a lodge in the Aberdare Mountains. From the observation decks at the Ark view animals, including bushbuck, elephant, and Cape buffalo as they come to sample the salt lick.
- Journey further north to visit the dry scrublands in the dramatic Samburu Game Reserve. Samburu is home to animals not seen in other parts of Kenya such as the long-necked gerenuk, the tiny dik-dik, and Grevy's zebra.
- Drive through scenic Kikuyu country to overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp and take an evening game drive to view nocturnal animals like the aardvark and genet.
- Descend into the picturesque Great Rift Valley on the way to Lake Nakuru, a shallow alkaline lake with a wealth of birdlife, including vast flocks of flamingoes. View the magnificent acacia forest surrounding the lake, while looking for rhino and the rare Rothschild's giraffe.
- Finally, travel to the Masai Mara, the northern part of the Serengeti Plain, with its acacia-dotted grasslands and vast herds of zebra and wildebeest, lion prides, and families of elephants. Overnight in exclusive tented camps in the Mara and experience a night game drive and an escorted nature walk as well as daily game drives.
- An optional extension to Tanzania is also available.

*To request a detailed, color itinerary, call Paul Bauer at 314/921-3972, or call the Missouri Botanical Garden, Education Division, at 314/577-9506 during normal business hours.

*Attend either of 2 **preview meetings** at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Ridgeway Center. A stunning, color slide program will help you visualize the animals, birds, native groups, and expansive scenery you will experience in Kenya. Also we will attempt to answer your questions.

***Thursday, April 17**
7:30 pm
Missouri Room

***Thursday, June 5**
7:30 pm
Botanical Room

These preview meetings are free to all; come and enjoy.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired: _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Introductory/$20 _____ Individual/$35 _____ Family/$40
_____ Sustaining/$50 _____ Supporting/$100 _____ Sr. Citizen/$21
_____ Sr. Citizen Family/$23

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Send application to:
Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairman
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:
National Audubon Society
If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Officers 1996-97

Jim Holsen	President	822-0410
Dianne Johnson	VP-Education	458-4369
	VP-Conservation	
Arthur Montgomery	VP-Finance	822-1215
Mary Lou Miller	Treasurer	389-3969
Mary Dueren	Secretary	576-1473

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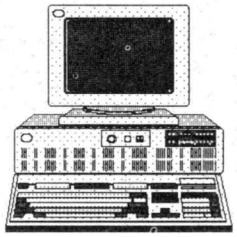
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	822-2428
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	391-7586
Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
	Newsletter Mailing	
Sue Jones	Bird Seed Sale Committee	721-0819
LaVerne Koyn	Message Center Phone Line	878-9125
Christine Matthews	Condolences, Illnesses, Etc.	240-4563
Dorothy Mill	Community Club Awards	966-6163
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	389-3969
Janice Patton	Print Library	921-4875
Karen Turner	Resource Center Network Rep.	771-9350
	SLEEN Representative	
Dave Tylka	Strategic Planning Committee	984-7712

Our Phone Number

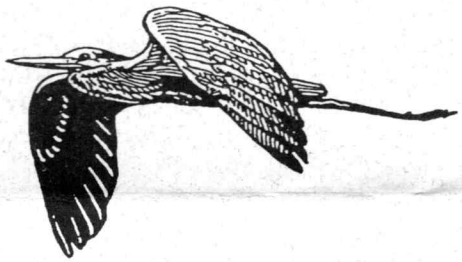
To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call 314/822-6595.

Notes from National Audubon

New Toll-Free Number for Reporting Bird Bands -- The National Biological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service have created a new toll-free number for reporting bird bands that have bee identified or recovered. If you come across a band, call 1-800-327-BAND to report it.



Web Site Available -- To access the National Audubon Society (NAS) Web Site, use the URL:http://www.audubon.org/local/cn/. The NAS web pages have been redesigned for March Check them out.



Newsletter Information

The St. Louis Audubon Society's ***Tale Feathers*** is printed bimonthly on recycled paper with soy ink and produced by Dolde Printing Co., 1350 Lonedell Rd., Arnold, MO 63010.

Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **June 1, 1997** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).

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St. Louis Audubon Society

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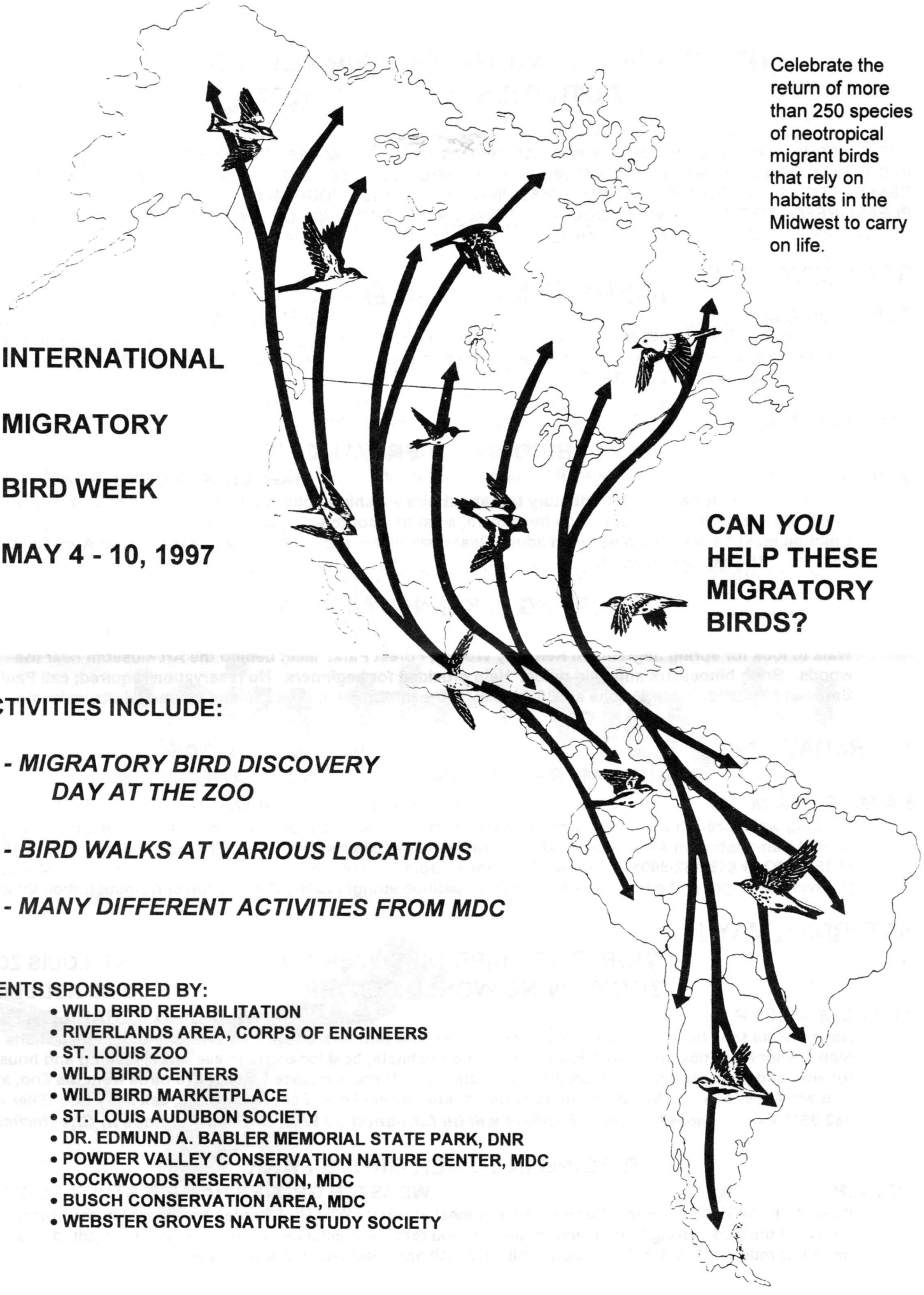

Celebrate the return of more than 250 species of neotropical migrant birds that rely on habitats in the Midwest to carry on life.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD WEEK

MAY 4 - 10, 1997

CAN *YOU* HELP THESE MIGRATORY BIRDS?

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ***MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY AT THE ZOO***
- ***BIRD WALKS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS***
- ***MANY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES FROM MDC***

EVENTS SPONSORED BY:

- **WILD BIRD REHABILITATION**
- **RIVERLANDS AREA, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**
- **ST. LOUIS ZOO**
- **WILD BIRD CENTERS**
- **WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE**
- **ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY**
- **DR. EDMUND A. BABLER MEMORIAL STATE PARK, DNR**
- **POWDER VALLEY CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER, MDC**
- **ROCKWOODS RESERVATION, MDC**
- **BUSCH CONSERVATION AREA, MDC**
- **WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY**

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD CELEBRATION
ACTIVITIES MAY 3 - 11, 1997

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING AROUND THE ST. LOUIS AREA IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD WEEK. SOME OF THE PROGRAMS LISTED REQUIRE RESERVATIONS. TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE LISTING OF ORGANIZATIONS ON THE BACK SIDE OF THIS BROCHURE OR BELOW. ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

BIRDING IN MALCOLM TERRACE PARK

8:30 -10:00 A.M. — **WILD BIRD CENTER, CREVE COEUR**

The Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur is sponsoring a birdwalk through Malcolm Terrace Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Wild Bird Center parking lot at 12388 Olive Blvd. We carpool to the park and return around 10:00 a.m. The walk is free. Call 275-8777.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

BIRD WATCHER WALK

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. — **BABLER MEMORIAL STATE PARK**

Join a naturalist for a short introductory talk about bird watching, followed by a walk to watch and listen for birds. Please bring binoculars if you have them, a hat or visor to wear, and sturdy shoes for walking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required and can be made after April 18. Call 458-3813. 16-year olds to adults.

BIRDING IN KENNEDY WOODS

8:00 A.M. — **ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Walk to look for spring migrants in Kennedy Woods, Forest Park. Meet behind the Art Museum near the woods. Bring binoculars and field guide. Help provided for beginners. No reservation required; call Paul Bauer at 921-3972 or Jim Malone at 536-1119 for more information. Ages 10 and up and adults welcome.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

PRAIRIE/MARSH BIRDS OF THE RIVERLANDS

8 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. — **RIVERLANDS, U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS**

Morning walk through a prairie/marsh complex to view and learn about common birds that visit the Environmental Demonstration Area located adjacent to the mighty Mississippi River. For reservations call 314-355-6585 in MO or 618-462-8005 in Illinois. Directions: from 270 take 367 to Alton. Before crossing the Mississippi River, turn right at the Fisca gas station and continue straight to the Rivers Project Administration Office.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY DAY — ST. LOUIS ZOO
ZOO'S LIVING WORLD CENTER — ST. LOUIS AUDUBON
WILD BIRD REHABILITATION

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Do you want to know more about wild birds, birding, and bird awareness? Activities and demonstrations feature bird identification, birds' adaptation to their habitats, best locations to see birds, feeding and housing for wild birds, proper care for injured and orphaned wild birds, a chance to meet live birds from the Zoo, and bird activities for kids. No reservations required; stop by anytime. For more details, call Mary Lou Miller - 389-3969 Eve. All ages welcome. ***Feeders will be furnished by Wild Bird Marketplace in Chesterfield.***

BIRDING IN TOWER GROVE PARK

8:00 A.M. — **WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY**

Walk led by WGNSS member. Participants will meet at Gaddy Wild Bird Garden (near sign) in the northwest corner of the park. Bring binoculars. Beginners will receive special help. No reservations required. For more information, call Sue Gustafson - 968-8128. All ages and beginners welcome.

BIRD WALK AT LONE ELK PARK

7:45 A.M.- 10:00 a.m. **WILD BIRD CENTER, CRESTWOOD**

Meet at the Wild Bird Center, 9815 Watson Road, Watson Plaza, Crestwood, MO 63126. We will carpool to Lone Elk Park, visit several locations, and return to the Wild Bird Center by 10 a.m. For reservations, call the Wild Bird Center at 822-9695. All birders, especially beginners, welcome.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

BIRDING IN KENNEDY WOODS

8:00 A.M. **ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Walk to look for spring migrants in Kennedy Woods, Forest Park. Meet behind the Art Museum near the woods. Bring binoculars and field guide. Help provided for beginners. No reservation required; call Paul Bauer at 921-3972 or Jim Malone at 536-1119 for more information. Ages 10 and up and adults welcome.

****

AS WE GO TO PRESS, THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER, ROCKWOODS RESERVATION, AND BUSCH CONSERVATION AREA) DOES NOT HAVE ITS SCHEDULE COMPLETED. PLEASE CALL THESE LOCATIONS LATER IN APRIL TO GET THEIR COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS. PHONE NUMBERS ARE ON THE BACK OF THIS BROCHURE.

NOTE: In celebration of International Migratory Bird Week, Wild Bird Rehabilitation, Inc. is making informational brochures on migratory birds available at various locations throughout the area, along with donation cans -- proceeds to go toward the work of this organization.

Join the Flock!

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

DR. EDMUND A. BABLER MEMORIAL STATE PARK
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
800 GUY PARK DRIVE, CHESTERFIELD
FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION CALL 458-3813
RESERVATIONS BEGIN AS LISTED ON PREVIOUS PAGE

US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
RIVERLANDS AREA, FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 355-6585

POWDER VALLEY CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
11715 CRAGWOLD ROAD, KIRKWOOD
FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 301-1500

AUGUST A. BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
2360 HIGHWAY D, ST. CHARLES
FOR INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS, CALL 441-4554

ROCKWOODS RESERVATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
2751 GLENCOE ROAD, GLENCOE
FOR INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS CALL 458-2236

Saint Louis ZOO

ST. LOUIS ZOO
FOREST PARK, ST. LOUIS
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ZOO PROGRAMS
CALL 768-5466

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
3927 LUCAS & HUNT ROAD, ST. LOUIS
FOR OTHER INFORMATION CALL 389-3969 EVENINGS

Webster Groves Nature Study Society

WEBSTER GROVES NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 23965, ST. LOUIS
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS, PLEASE CALL
SUE GUSTAFSON - 968-8128

WILD BIRD CENTER OF CREVE COEUR
12388 OLIVE BLVD., CREVE COEUR, CALL 275-8777

WILD BIRD CENTER OF CRESTWOOD, 9815 WATSON ROAD,
WATSON PLAZA, CRESTWOOD, CALL 822-9695

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION, INC.
10040 BIG BEND BLVD., KIRKWOOD, CALL 984-9116

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